



INDIANA COMMISSION *for*  
HIGHER EDUCATION

# SMOOTHING THE COLLEGE TRANSITION

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# PURPOSE

- Proactively teach students how to navigate through the college experience
- Help students address challenges that might otherwise lead them to drop out
- Improve persistence and completion rates



# WHY IT MATTERS

- 3 in 10 bachelor's degree students do not graduate
- 8 in 10 associate degree students do not graduate
- Students who enroll in bridge/first year experience courses are more likely to earn college credits in the first year and to persist to the second year.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars with coaches had an 7.3 percentage points greater persistence rate than those without



# INDIANA'S RESPONSE

- The commission provided Persistence Grants to campuses to put in place bridge programs, mentors and financial literacy for state aid recipients
- USA Funds provided financial support for campuses to assign coaches (through Inside Track) for incoming 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars



# KEY QUESTIONS

- What do students do and learn in bridge programs and first-year experience courses?
- How is coaching and mentoring different than traditional advising?
- Why are these supports even more important for low-income and at-risk students?



**Ball State  
University**

# ***Smoothing the College Transition***

*Adapted from a  
presentation by  
Gloria Pavlik and  
Jordan Hallow*

**Students Advocates Conference- 2015**





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**BROOKE MORELAND-WILLIAMS**  
**IUPUI**

- Coaching: Initial results—8.8 percentage point increase in retention
- Ivy Prep: Initial results—52% greater odds of being retained vs. matched peers
- ASAP: All years combined—59% 1-year grad rate; 65% 3-year grad rate
- American Honors—on-time grad rate 3-5 times the Ivy Tech statewide average







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**THANK YOU!**

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